

**CHARTER COMMISSION
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CHARTER COMMISSION TO SELECT CHARTER AMENDMENTS FOR 2006
GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT**

HONOLULU, HAWAII, April 27, 2006

Marking an important milestone in the charter revision process, the 2005-2006 Honolulu City Charter Commission will be voting to select proposed charter amendments for the 2006 General Election Ballot. The two voting meetings are scheduled as follows:

TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2006 AT 2:00 P.M.

Honolulu Hale - City Council Committee Room

- Voting on proposals: elections, term limits, increasing size of City Council, ethics, Neighborhood Commission, dedicated funding for conservation and affordable housing.
- Agenda available at <http://www.honolulu.gov/chc/agendas.htm>

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2006 AT 2:00 P.M.

Honolulu Hale - City Council Committee Room

- Voting on proposals (tentative): planning and zoning, curbside recycling, bicycle-friendly policy, city department descriptions.
- Official agenda TBA

The Commission has dedicated the past year gathering public input on potential changes to the City Charter. In the past few months the Commission publicized and held nearly twenty public meetings in Honolulu Hale and three community meetings around the island. “We’ve had many long meetings, heard from numerous individuals and organizations, researched the issues, and given all the proposals careful consideration. Now it’s time to make a decision on which proposals will be placed on the ballot in November,” said Commission Chair Donn Takaki.

Chair Takaki continued, “We have already heard from many residents, organizations, businesses, and government officials throughout this process. If we have not heard from you yet, we hope to hear from you on May 2 and May 10. Please take a look at the proposals and tell us which ones you believe are truly worthy of being put on the ballot this fall.”

LEARN ABOUT THE PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS. Copies of all proposals are posted as PDF files on the Commission website, <http://www.honolulu.gov/chc>. Hard copies are also available for viewing at the Commission office at 711 Kapiolani Boulevard Suite 1485, or the Municipal Library in the City Council Annex at 558 S. King Street.

Out of 108 proposals submitted to the Commission, 42 proposals remain under consideration.

The proposals include the following:

- 10 proposals regarding city departments and directors’ duties
- 3 proposals on elections, Council districts, and term limits
- 7 proposals on the City’s planning and zoning process
- 2 proposals on the Neighborhood Commission and Neighborhood Boards
- 2 proposals on the City budget process
- 5 proposals on ethics and open government

- 3 proposals to establish new agencies and funds
- 4 proposals regarding City Council procedures
- 6 “housekeeping” measures

HOW TO SUBMIT COMMENTS. The public is encouraged to attend the meetings and provide testimony. Register to speak by calling 592-8622 or emailing charter@honolulu.gov, or fill out a sign-up form upon arrival at the meeting. Written testimony can be sent by mail to the Charter Commission, 711 Kapiolani Boulevard, Suite 1485, Honolulu, HI 96813; by fax to 592-8633; and by e-mail to charter@honolulu.gov. See official agendas posted on the Commission website for more information regarding testimony.

NEXT STEPS. Proposed charter amendments approved at the May 2 and May 10 meetings will be referred to the Commission’s Committee on Style, which will prepare finalized language for the Commission’s approval in summer 2006. Ultimately, the finalized proposed charter amendments will be placed on the 2006 General Election ballot for voter approval.

ABOUT THE COMMISSION. The Charter Commission is a 13-member appointed body responsible for revising the city charter, the governing document for the City & County of Honolulu. The convening of a Charter Commission provides a rare and important opportunity for major changes to city government. This is only the fourth Charter Commission convened since the adoption of the city charter in 1972.

For more information, visit the Charter Commission website at <http://www.honolulu.gov/chc> or contact the Commission staff at 592-8622 or charter@honolulu.gov.

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